

FEBRUARY 17, 1807.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Saturday next.

A Bill,

Further to regulate the grants of land, south of the state of Tennessee.



1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in congress assembled, That when-*
3 *ever it shall appear to the satisfaction of the registers and receivers*
4 *of public monies, for the districts east and west of Pearl river, that*
5 *any person or persons, or the legal representatives of any person*
6 *or persons, who were resident in the Mississippi territory, on the*
7 *twenty-seventh day of October, one thousand seven hundred and*
8 *ninety-five, and who had prior to that day obtained, either from the*
9 *British government of West Florida, or from the Spanish govern-*
10 *ment, any warrant or order of survey for lands lying within the said*
11 *territory, to which the Indian title has been extinguished, would*

have been confirmed in their claims to such lands according to the laws and established usages and customs of said governments, respectively, it shall be the duty of the registers and receivers aforesaid, in their districts, respectively, to grant a certificate to such person or persons, or their legal representatives, for the lands thus claimed, and patents shall issue as in other cases of confirmation; any thing in the acts regulating the grants of land in the territory aforesaid, to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, That no claim founded as above, shall be confirmed for a greater quantity of land than acres: *And provided also*, That persons claiming as above, shall file their claims and the evidence necessary to support them, with the register of the proper land office, on or before the thirty-first day of December next.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever it shall appear
2 to the satisfaction of the register and receiver of either of the dis-
3 tricts abovementioned, that settlement and occupancy of a tract of
4 land claimed under the provisions of the second section of the act,
5 passed the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and
6 three, regulating the grants of land in the aforesaid territory, had
7 been made and taken place, prior to that day on which fort St.
8 Stephens, on the Mobile, or Tombigbee river, was finally evacu-
9 ated by the Spanish troops, the said register and receiver shall
10 grant a certificate to the claimant or claimants, in the same manner
11 as if the land thus claimed had been inhabited and cultivated, prior
12 to the thirtieth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and
13 ninety-eight, and patents shall issue as in other cases of donation :

14 *Provided*, That no claim shall be confirmed by virtue of settlement
15 and occupancy, which may have been made or taken place subse-
16 quent to the fourth day of February, one thousand seven hundred
17 and ninety nine : *And provided also*, That persons claiming under
18 the above provisions, shall file their claims and the evidence neces-
19 sary to support them, in the manner and time herein prescribed to
20 the other description of claimants.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever any person
2 who shall have received a pre-emption certificate for a tract of land
3 in the aforesaid territory, shall, by a decision of the competent au-
4 thority, within the said territory, rendered in favor of any conflicting
5 claim, lose the whole or part of the tract to which he was entitled
6 by virtue of such certificate, it shall be lawful for the receiver of
7 public monies for the district where the land lies, to pay to such
8 person or his assigns, so much of the purchase money as had been
9 paid by him for the land thus recovered, by virtue of the conflicting
10 claim above mentioned.

1 Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That John Pickering be per-
2 mitted, within six months from the passage of this act, to enter with
3 the register of the land office, for the district east of Pearl river, his
4 certificate of a right of preemption, granted by the commissioners
5 for said district, for a tract of land lying within the same; and such
6 entry shall have the same effect as if it had been made within three
7 months from the time such certificate was issued.